

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 23-44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-26, 37, 39, 40, 43, and 44 and Figures 1a and 1b are amended by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to; Claims 23-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; and Claims 23-44 were indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that neither of the Information Disclosure Statements filed September 27, 2002 and March 16, 2004 were accompanied by a PTO Form 1449. However, as those statements list only "related" applications or patents, Applicants respectfully submit that a PTO Form 1449 is not required. In this regard, MPEP § 609 III A (1) only requires that a "list" be filed that lists each U.S. Application by inventor, serial number, and filing date. Similarly, a U.S. Patent issuing from a related application can be included by listing its U.S. Patent Number. While this section further encourages using PTO forms (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08A and 08B), the use of these forms is NOT required.

Regarding the objection to the title of the invention, the title is amended to be more descriptive. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figures 1a and 1b are amended to include the legend "Background Art". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to drawings be withdrawn.

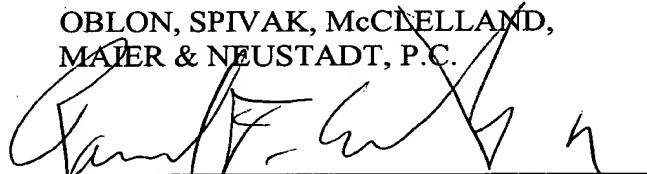
Regarding the rejection of Claims 23-44 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, independent Claim 23 is amended to delete the recitation of "as short as possible".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 23-44 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn. As the Examiner's statement of "allowable subject matter" similarly omits the phrase "which are as short as possible", Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 23 retains the indicated allowable subject matter.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McDELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Raymond F. Cardillo
Registration No. 40,440

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1a-1b. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1a-1b, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1a-1b.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)